

**News Release**  
**December 15, 2008**

**Statement from Speaker Bass Regarding First 5 California's  
Action to Ensure Young Children Have Access to Health  
Coverage**

"On behalf of 65,000 California children who won't be denied health care this holiday season, I'm pleased the First 5 California Commission just voted to direct \$16.7 million of their funds to help ensure those infants and children can have access to the Healthy Families Program. I have been working closely with Senate President pro Tem Steinberg and Governor Schwarzenegger to find a solution to this issue, and I thank the First 5 commissioners, including my appointees to the panel, for hearing our appeals and stepping up to the plate with a responsible resolution for these children."